

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the specification, as follows:

Page 1, line 1, replace the title paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

~~TYRE FOR VEHICLE WHEELS AND ELASTOMERIC COMPOSITION~~  
AND TYRE FOR A VEHICLE WHEEL INCLUDING THE COMPOSITION

Page 1, line 3, add the following paragraph in the form of a section heading after the title “ELASTOMERIC COMPOSITION AND TYRE FOR A VEHICLE WHEEL INCLUDING THE COMPOSITION” and prior to the paragraph beginning “The present invention relates to a tyre . . . .”

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

Page 1, line 3, add the following new paragraph after the heading “CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS” added above and prior to the paragraph beginning “The present invention relates to a tyre . . . .”

This application is a national-phase entry under 35 U.S.C. § 371 from International Application No. PCT/EP2002/014145, filed December 12, 2002, in the European Patent Office, the content of which is relied upon and incorporated herein by reference.

Page 1, line 3, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section heading after the cross-reference to related applications added above and prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “The present invention relates to a tyre . . . .”

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, line 3, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section subheading after the heading “BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION” added above and prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “The present invention relates to a tyre . . . .”

### Field of the Invention

Page 1, line 17, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section subheading prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “In the rubber industry . . . .”

### Description of the Related Art

Page 5, line 31, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section heading prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “In the Applicant’s view . . . .”

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 24, line 12, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section heading prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “The present invention will now be illustrated . . . .”

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 24, line 23, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section heading prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “The tyre (100) comprises . . . .”

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

Add a new page 50 after the claims, adding the following ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE. A new, separate page 50 including the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE is enclosed.

#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A crosslinkable elastomeric composition includes at least one diene elastomeric polymer and at least one organic quaternary ammonium salt. The at least one diene elastomeric polymer may have a glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) below 20° C. The at least one organic quaternary ammonium salt may be present in an amount from 0.1 phr to 10 phr. The elastomeric composition may include at least one primary accelerator selected from thiazoles, sulphenamides, and/or xanthogenates. The elastomeric composition may be substantially free of additional secondary accelerators. The elastomeric composition may include at least one

reinforcing filler, such as carbon black and/or silica. A tyre for a vehicle wheel includes at least one structural element including the elastomeric composition. The tyre may include a carcass structure, a belt structure, a tread band, and a pair of sidewalls. The at least one structural element including the elastomeric composition may be the tread band.